

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 MC-02 AID-20 IGA-02

TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /094 W
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R 201416Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2861

INFO SECDEF
CINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
CNO

CONFIDENTIAL ANKARA 1267

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, TU
SUBJ: TURKS ASK FOR SPRINGFIELD OFFER

REF: A. ANKARA 2024; B. STATE 29276; C. CNO DTG
141254Z FEB 74

SUMMARY: TURKEY HAS FORMALLY ASKED US TO OFFER CRUISER SPRINGFIELD. FINAL TURKISH DECISION ON ACCEPTANCE NOT YET MADE AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO COST CONSIDERATIONS. TURKS HOPE FORMAL REQUEST FOR OFFER WILL SUSPEND DEACTIVATION. THEY INTERESTED IN POSSIBILITY PAYING COSTS IN INSTALLMENTS OVER THREE YEARS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING UP ON BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR YESTERDAY(FEB. 19), YAVUZALP (DIRGEN, INTL. SECURITY AFFAIRS, MFA) CALLED MMACOUNS TO MINISTRY FEB. 20 TO REQUEST US OFFER OF SPRINGFIELD AND DISCUSS NEXT PROCEDURAL STEPS. YAVUZALP SAID THAT ACCORDING TO HIS UNDERSTANDING, OBTAINED FROM TURKISH NAVY QUARTERS, FORMAL EXPRESSION OF TURKISH INTEREST IN ACQUIRING SPRINGFIELD WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY FORMAL US OFFER, LEADING TO DETAILED INSPECTION BY TURKISH NAVY.

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YAVUZALP FURTHER UNDERSTOOD THAT FINAL DECISION BY TURKS TO ACQUIRE SHIP NOT REQUIRED NOW, AND THAT FORMAL REQUEST FOR

US OFFER WOULD SUSPEND FURTHER DEACTIVATION OF SHIP.

2. WE CONFIRMED YAVUZALP'S UNDERSTANDING OF PROCEDURES EXCEPT FOR QUESTION OF DEACTIVATION. ON THIS POINT, WE SAID WE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER REQUEST FOR OFFER AUTOMATICALLY SUSPENDED DEACTIVATION, BUT IN VIEW OUR EARLIER EXPLANATION (REF. A, PARA. 2), WE INCLINED DOUBT IT.

3. YAVUZALP SAID TURKEY WAS INTERESTED IN PAYING ALL COSTS IN INSTALLMENTS. THIS WOULD ENABLE TURKISH NAVY TO ACQUIRE SHIP WITHOUT SEPARATELY BUDGETING. HE THOUGHT INSTALLMENTS OVER THREE YEARS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT.

4. WE TOLD YAVUZALP WE WOULD DEAL WITH HIS REQUEST EXPEDITIOUSLY, AND THAT WE EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO MAKE OFFER VERY QUICKLY. IN MEANTIME, WE GAVE HIM ON PRELIMINARY BASIS COST FIGURES CONTAINED REF. (C), SO THAT HE COULD INFORMALLY CARRY OUT HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

5. AUTHORITY TO MAKE OFFER CONTAINED REF. (B). AS AUTHORIZED BY EMBASSY, JUSMMAT DELIVERED LETTER OF OFFER TODAY, FEB. 20.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST WHETHER (A) YAVUZLAP'S REQUEST FOR OFFER FREEZES DEACTIVATION OPERATIONS ON SPRINGFIELD, AND (B) WHAT INSTALLMENT FINANCING POSSIBILITIES EXIST.

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